

**Syllabus for *The Silk Roads:  
Travels with an Ancient Chinese Monk  
and a Modern Archeologist***

***Spring, 2019***

*Coordinator: Bob Martin*

**Class 1 Session A Silk Road Overview and Arrival of the Chinese**

Silk Road Overview and Arrival of the Chinese

Core Readings:

[Silk Road Timeline](#) a 2-page list of important events

*“The Silk Roads in History,”* by Daniel C. Waugh 14 pages include extensive illustrations. <https://www.penn.museum/sites/expedition/the-silk-roads-in-history/>

*Zhang Qian* – Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhang\\_Qian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhang_Qian)

Map: Eurasian

Steppes [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian\\_Steppe#/media/File:Eurasian\\_steppe\\_belt.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_Steppe#/media/File:Eurasian_steppe_belt.jpg)

Map: Main Silk or Spice Routes between 500 BCE and 500

CE <https://www.ancient.eu/uploads/images/8327.jpg?v=1521123900>

Recommended but not Required:

YouTube: “The Silk Road” – with Colin Thubron 45

minutes See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2qhUbJJ5XE>

This video is a terrific introduction to the landscapes travelled by Xuanzang and Stein, as well as to the ethnic groups they encountered.

For Further Reading:

*“Han Emperor Wu-ti's Interest in Central Asia and Chang Chien's (Zhang Qian)”* - Expeditions Magazine 3 pages, including illustrations <http://www.silk-road.com/artl/wuti.shtml>

*The War of Heavenly Horses -*

Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War\\_of\\_the\\_Heavenly\\_Horses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_the_Heavenly_Horses)

*Open Source Civilization and the Unexpected Origins of the Silk*

*Road* <http://longnow.org/seminars/02018/feb/26/open-source-civilization-unexpected-origins-silk-road/>

In this video, archeologist Michael Frachetti reports on his many years of research and excavation in the majestic Altai Mountains, home of nomads since prehistory. His central finding: 75 percent of the hundreds of mountain and desert trails that became known as the Silk Road were originally travelled by sheep-herders migrating from summer grazing areas in the highlands to winter havens in the lowlands. A sound-only version of this can be heard at: <http://podcast.longnow.org/salt/salt-020180226-frachetti-podcast.mp3>

## **Class 1 Session B Basics**

Class Introductions

Temple and LLC Rules

Cancellations

Presentations

Resources

## **Class 2 Session A Xuanzang's Journey – From Chang'An to Jade Gate**

Core Readings:

[\*The Silk Road Journey with Xuanzang\*](#), by Sally Hovey Wriggins, pp. 1 to 17

Article: [\*Jade Gate or Yumen Pass\*](#) 2 pages

Recommended but not Required:

[\*Xuanzang on the Silk Road\*](#), by Sally Hovey Wriggins. This essay provides a wide-angle view of Xuanzang's life and legacy - 10 pages

For Further Reading:

*The Travel Recordsof Chinese Pilgrims Faxian, Xuanzang, and Yijing* 10 pages (including extensive illustrations). [http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/travel\\_records.pdf](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/travel_records.pdf)

*Xuanzang* - Wikipedia 19 pages, but with many illustrations <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xuanzang>

## Class 2 Session B Jade Gate to Samarkand

### Core Readings:

*The Silk Road Journey with Xuanzang*, by Sally Hovey Wriggins, pp. 18 to 35

### Video:

YouTube: *The Silk Road I - 8 of 12 - A Heat Wave Called Turfan* <https://youtu.be/31q8O27REo4>

### Recommended but not Required:

*Turpan – Wikipedia* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turpan>

*Jiaohe Ruins, Turpan – Wikipedia.* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jiaohe\\_ruins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jiaohe_ruins)

### For Further Reading:

*Central Asian Buddhism: Turfan and the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves* [Central Asian Buddhism -Turfan and the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves](#)

## Class 3 Session A Samarkand, Iron Gate, Balkh, and Bamiyan

### Core Readings:

*The Silk Road Journey with Xuanzang*, [Wriggins pp 36 to 54](#)

[Xuanzang at the Iron Gates](#) 1 page

*Bamayan - Getty Images* <https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/bamiyan-buddhas?sort=mostpopular&mediatype=photography&phrase=bamiyan%20buddhas>

### For Further Reading:

*Balkh – Wikipedia* 7 pages <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balkh>

*Buddhas of Bamiyan – Wikipedia* 8 pages, including illustrations [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhas\\_of\\_Bamiyan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhas_of_Bamiyan)

## Class 3 Session B. Greco-Buddhist Art

### Core Readings:

*Greco-Buddhist art* – Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Buddhist\\_art](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Buddhist_art)

15 pages, thickly illustrated This essay looks at of the Greek influence on Buddhist art in Bamiyan, Bactria and throughout Central Asia, which Xuanzang would have seen in many locations, and which Aurel Stein sought after.

### For Further Reading:

*Indo-Greek Kingdom* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Greek\\_Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Greek_Kingdom). A long, well illustrated discussion of one of the states established by Alexander and his successors in Central Asia.

*Gandharan Sculpture from Pakistan*

*Museums* <https://ia801304.us.archive.org/26/items/in.gov.ignca.41658/41658.pdf>

## Class 4 Session A The Journey Home April 4

### Core Readings:

*The Silk Road Journey with Xuanzang*, [Wriggins pp 159 to 180](#)

[\*The Princess in the Tower\*](#) (a legend from Xuanzang's *Record of the Western Regions*) 4 pages

### Recommended but not Required:

*Ruins of Desert Cathay Vol I, Ch IX* pp. 89 to 94, tells Stein's version of story of the princess in the tower. <https://archive.org/details/ruinsofdesertcat01stei/page/88>

### Video:

*YouTube: Silk Road II, 1 of 18: Across the Pamirs* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUqIp9ARVIg>

This video gives a clear view of the Pamir landscape Xuanzang and Stein travelled at the same point in their journeys.

## Class 4 Session B Xuanzang's Legacy April 4

### Core Readings:

*The Silk Road Journey with Xuanzang*, Wriggins pp 180 to 201

### Xuanzang Photos in the Lo

Collection [https://www.google.com/search?q=the+Lo+Collection+Xuanzang&hl=en-us&client=safari&tbm=isch&tbs=rimg:CXqcQn\\_14bE1aIkAs8eGIWH9RGspBY5sF30vRzQF1979IE6SsaKSSs3uoI7x5TMRpbVm96eF3VWsKkavIL6kfN6L8uuy3L02RhtMaKhIJLPHhiFh\\_1URoRjdKsNHzfA5kqEgnKOWObBd9MkRHOArfBgzVvpSoSCc0Bdfe\\_1ZROkEWLBdquMTU2IKhIJrGikkrN7qCMRZ6j25xZmT-MqEgm8eUzEaW1ZvRGzwBVRIBBrFioSCenhd1VrCpGrEdE6gmkTr1ytKhIJ5S-pHzei\\_1LoRQ5obo\\_1rBlpwqEgnstv9NkYbTGhHpstDbJh2buw%3D%3D&tbo=u&ved=2aHUKewjP6Ji-8bPbAhVPmK0KHchiBQwQuIBegQIARAI#](https://www.google.com/search?q=the+Lo+Collection+Xuanzang&hl=en-us&client=safari&tbm=isch&tbs=rimg:CXqcQn_14bE1aIkAs8eGIWH9RGspBY5sF30vRzQF1979IE6SsaKSSs3uoI7x5TMRpbVm96eF3VWsKkavIL6kfN6L8uuy3L02RhtMaKhIJLPHhiFh_1URoRjdKsNHzfA5kqEgnKOWObBd9MkRHOArfBgzVvpSoSCc0Bdfe_1ZROkEWLBdquMTU2IKhIJrGikkrN7qCMRZ6j25xZmT-MqEgm8eUzEaW1ZvRGzwBVRIBBrFioSCenhd1VrCpGrEdE6gmkTr1ytKhIJ5S-pHzei_1LoRQ5obo_1rBlpwqEgnstv9NkYbTGhHpstDbJh2buw%3D%3D&tbo=u&ved=2aHUKewjP6Ji-8bPbAhVPmK0KHchiBQwQuIBegQIARAI#)

### For Further Reading:

[\*Xuanzang at Khotan\*](#). Xuanzang's own description of his visit to Khotan is interesting to read in connection Stein's visit, as discussed in Class 6 Session A (see Index).

[\*Xuanzang on the Silk Road\*](#). This essay by Sally Hovey Wriggins puts Xuanzang's life and work in historical context, as well as describing his travels.

## Class 5 Session A Introduction to Aurel Stein: His Overall Career April 11

### Core Readings:

*Journeys on the Silk Road: A Desert Explorer, Buddha's Secret Library, And The Unearthing Of The World's Oldest Printed Book*. Pages 1-32 – Prologue and Chapters 1 & 2

## Class 5 Session B Hindu Kush and Pamirs to Kashgar April 11

### Core Readings:

*Ruins of Desert Cathay, Vol I, Chapter VI, On the Darkot Pass*, pp. 52 to 62. <https://archive.org/details/ruinsofdesertcat01stei/page/52>

*Photo: [Sarikol Fort 1906](#)* This link shows the ancient Chinese fort at Tashkurgan described by both Stein and Xuanzang.

## **Class 6 Session A Khotan April 18**

### **Core Readings:**

*Ruins of Desert Cathay –Vol I, Chapter XIV, My Return to Khotan, pp. 163 to 178* August 1906 <https://archive.org/details/ruinsofdesertcat01stei/page/162>

Stein passed through Khotan in August, 1906, and again several weeks later after exploring the Kunlun Mountains at length. (He had done archeological work in Khotan in 1900 also.) He visited Khotan once again on the way to India after crossing the Taklamakan.

*Stein Photos- Ancient Khotan (from the Xenophon website).* Click on blue dots for photos. <http://www.xenophon-mil.org/china/centralasia/ancientkhotanphoto.htm>

### **Video:**

**YouTube: *The Silk Road I - 7 of 12 - Khotan Oasis of Silk and Jade.* 48 minutes** [https://youtu.be/I6Bz\\_RF2UOc](https://youtu.be/I6Bz_RF2UOc)

While much of this video shows life in Khotan in the 1980's, it also portrays locals on camel prospecting for jade in the Kunlun Mountains in a way that harks back to the earliest days of trade between Khotan and China, prior to even the Han dynasty. Other footage follows current archeological exploration in the desert around Khotan, also on camel as in the days of Stein.

### **Recommended but not Required:**

[\*Xuanzang in Khotan\*](#) (from *The Life of Xuanzang*) 4 pages

*Kingdom of Khotan* - Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom\\_of\\_Khotan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Khotan)

## **Class 6 Session B Niya Oct-Dec, 1906. April 18**

### **Core Readings:**

*Ruins of Desert Cathay – Vol I, Chapter XXII, “To Keriya and the Niya River,” pp. 258 to 279* <https://archive.org/details/ruinsofdesertcat01stei/page/258>

*Niya Ruins*– Wikipedia 2 pages [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niya\\_ruins](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niya_ruins)

### **Recommended but not Required:**

*The Lost Kingdom of Niya,* By Li Xiguang, Washington Post 7 pages [https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/1995/10/11/the-lost-kingdom-of-niya/61b54ad0-59fa-4a30-9f8d-5f38863eae07/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.e1542801885b](https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/1995/10/11/the-lost-kingdom-of-niya/61b54ad0-59fa-4a30-9f8d-5f38863eae07/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.e1542801885b)

## **Class 7 Session A Lop Nur December 1906.** April 25

### **Core Readings:**

*Ruins of Desert Cathay – Vol I, Chapter, XXXIV pp. 392 thru 402, Records from an Ancient Rubbish Heap* <https://archive.org/details/ruinsofdesertcat01stei/page/392>

*Lop Nur – Wikipedia* 5 pages including extensive illustrations [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lop\\_Nur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lop_Nur)

### **Recommended but not Required:**

### **Video:**

*YouTube: The Silk Road I, 5 of 12 - In Search of the Kingdom of Lou-Lan* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPA9RDZ9X7M&index=6&list=PLILRO\\_uVCaoOtZ6O6egVyUyEMhbN7OG9y&t=816s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPA9RDZ9X7M&index=6&list=PLILRO_uVCaoOtZ6O6egVyUyEMhbN7OG9y&t=816s)

### **For Further Reading:**

*Han Emperor Wu-ti's Interest in Central Asia and Chang Chien's (Zhang Qian's) Expeditions* <http://silkroadfoundation.org/artl/wuti.shtml>. 3 pages, including illustrations

## **Class 7 Session B Loulan and The Tarim Basin**

### **Mummies** April 25

### **Core Readings:**

*Loulan Kingdom – Wikipedia* 6 pages including extensive illustrations [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loulan\\_Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loulan_Kingdom)

*Ancient Mummies of the Tarim Basin*, by Victor Mair 5 pages <https://www.penn.museum/sites/expedition/ancient-mummies-of-the-tarim-basin/>

*DNA Reveals These Red-Haired Chinese Mummies Come From Europe And Asia* By Kristina Killgrove, Forbes Magazine 6 pages <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kristinakilgrove/2015/07/18/these-red-haired-chinese-mummies-come-from-all-over-eurasia-dna-reveals/#328669523e2c>

### **Recommended but not Required:**

### **Video:**

*YouTube: The Mummies of the Taklamakan.* 54 minutes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4IJlvy6734&t=2301s>

## For Further Reading:

*Tocharians* – Wikipedia 6 pages <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tocharians>

*The Tarim Mummies* – Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarim\\_mummies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarim_mummies)

*A Host of Mummies, a Forest of Secrets*, by Nicholas Wade, New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/16/science/16archo.html>

## Class 8 Session A Miran February 1907

### Core Readings:

*Journeys on the Silk Road*, Morgan & Walters, Chapter 5, *Angels Sanctuary*, pages 67-82

*Miran* – Wikipedia 3 pages [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miran\\_\(Xinjiang\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miran_(Xinjiang))

[Miran Wall Painting of Buddha](#) 2 pages

### Recommended but not Required

[Ruins of Desert Cathay, Chapter XL, \*Ancient Temples of Miran\*, pages 452-460](#)

## Class 8 Session B Dunhuang March to May, 1907

### Core Readings:

*Journeys on the Silk Road*, Morgan & Walters, Chapter 6, *City of Sand* pages 83-98

## Class 9 Session A The Mogao Caves

### Core Readings:

*Ruins of Desert Cathay*, Vol II, Chapter LII, *To The Caves of the Thousand Buddhas*, pp. 20 to 31 [https://ia801603.us.archive.org/5/items/in.ernet.dli.2015.42829/2015.42829.Ruins-Of-Desert-Cathay--Vol-2\\_text.pdf](https://ia801603.us.archive.org/5/items/in.ernet.dli.2015.42829/2015.42829.Ruins-Of-Desert-Cathay--Vol-2_text.pdf). Stein's own account of his first visit to the Mogao Caves.

*Mogao Photos - Getty Images* <https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/mogao-caves?mediatype=photography&phrase=mogao%20caves&sort=mostpopular>

### Recommended but not Required:

*YouTube: The Silk Road I - 3 of 12 - The Art Gallery in the Desert*. 47-minute video. This episode of the Japanese Silk Road series visits the Dun-Huang Mogao Caves of the Thousand Buddhas, their art treasures and Library Cave. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzQdeSSPiXQ&t=331s>



### For Further Reading:

*Journeys on the Silk Road*, Morgan & Walters, *Chapter 8, Keys to the Cave*, pp. 117 to 128.

*Mogao Caves* – Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mogao\\_Caves](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mogao_Caves)

*Video: On the Silk Road: Exploring Mogao Grottoes in China's Dunhuang* <https://youtu.be/G2LccA9W0q8>

## Class 9 Session B The Diamond Sutra

### Core Readings:

*Journeys on the Silk Road*, Morgan & Walters, *Chapter 9, The Hidden Gem*, pages 131-146

Article: [Finding The Diamond Sutra](#). 1 page

### Recommended but not Required:

*Journeys on the Silk Road*, Morgan & Walters, *Chapter 17, Facets of a Jewel*, Pages 245 to 260

About *The Diamond Sutra* – Wikipedia 4 pages [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamond\\_Sutra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamond_Sutra)

Full Text: [Diamond Sutra Translation.pdf](#)

## Class 10 Session A Death by Thirst -- or by Ice Mid-1908. May 16

### Core Readings:

*Journeys on the Silk Road, Chapter 10, The Thieves Road*, pages 147-161 Describes Stein's dangerous trek across the Taklamakan desert from Kuchar to Khotan, enduring extreme heat and running desperately low on water.

*Journeys on the Silk Road, Chapter 12, Frozen*, pages 173 to 185 Stein spent three months in the final journey from Khotan back to Srinigar — most of the time at altitudes above 15,000 ft. — crossing the Kunlun Mountains, the Himalayas and the Karakoram Pass, enduring frostbite and the loss of several toes en route.

### Recommended but not Required:

*Journeys on the Silk Road*, Morgan & Walters, *Chapter 11, Affliction in the Orchard*, pages 163 to 172. This chapter describes an uneventful visit to Khotan devoted to

recuperating from the crossing of the desert and preparing for the trip home to India across the Kunlun Mountains.

## **Class 10 Session B. Stein's Historical Legacy. May 16**

### **Core Readings:**

[Sir Aurel Stein's Fourth 'American' Expedition.](#) by Shareen Brysac 6 pages

This essay discusses China's view of Stein — as one more imperialist among many who exploited China's weakness from the 18th century to the 20th century, making off with treasures of Chinese history and culture as well as robbing its national wealth. During his shortlived 4th expedition there, Stein was forbidden from removing any further artifacts from China and forced to leave China prematurely.

### **Recommended but not Required:**

The following portions of *Journeys* show in some detail the reasons for China's point of view.

*Journeys on the Silk Road, Chapter 6, City of Sands, pp. 83 to 98*

*Journeys on the Silk Road, Chapter 15, Treasure Hunters, pp. 219-228*

